AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of providing content to a device according to Hypertext Transport Protocol (HTTP), the method comprising:

receiving an HTTP request for a first content object;

identifying a content operation identifier that identifies a corresponding second content object determined as relevant to the first content object by a predictive caching operation, the content operation identifier including a directive for prefetching the second content object as a content operation distinct from presentation of the first content object by the device; and

sending to the device an HTTP response to the HTTP request, the HTTP response including the first content object and the content operation identifier, enabling the device to perform the prefetching of the second content object based on receipt of the content operation identifier and distinct from the presentation of the first content object.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying step includes retrieving, based on retrieval of a first stored file containing the first content object, a second stored file associated with the first stored file and containing the content operation identifier.

3. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2, wherein the sending step includes adding to the first content object a content operation tag that specifies the content operation identifier including a directive tag specifying the corresponding content operation to be performed by the device and an object identifier that specifies a location of the second content object.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 3, wherein the first content object is a Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) document, the adding step including inline prepending the content operation tag from the second stored file into the HTML document.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 4, wherein the content operation identifier further includes a second directive tag specifying purging a third content object from a cache.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 2, wherein the sending step includes inserting into the HTTP response at least one extensible HTTP header that specifies the content operation identifier including said directive to be performed by the device and an object identifier that specifies a location of the second content object.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 6, wherein the content operation identifier further includes a second directive that specifies purging a third content object.

8. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the sending step includes adding to the first content object a content operation tag that specifies the content operation identifier including a directive tag specifying the corresponding content operation to be performed by the device and an object identifier that specifies a location of the second content object.

9. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 8, wherein the first content object is a Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) document, the adding step including inline prepending the content operation tag into the HTML document.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 9, wherein the content operation identifier further includes a second directive tag specifying purging a third content object from a cache.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1, wherein the sending step includes inserting into the HTTP response at least one extensible HTTP header that specifies the content

operation identifier including the directive to be performed by the device and an object identifier that specifies a location of the second content object.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 11, wherein the content operation identifier further includes a second directive specifying purging a third content object from a cache.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of retrieving content for a device according to Hypertext Transport Protocol, the method comprising:

first sending an HTTP request for a first content object, received from the device, to a destination server specified by the HTTP request;

receiving from the destination server an HTTP response to the HTTP request that includes the first content object and a content operation identifier that specifies a directive for prefetching an identified second content object as an operation to be performed on the identified second content object and distinct from presentation of the first content object;

second sending the first content object to the device; and

executing the operation of prefetching the second content object in response to the content operation identifier.

14. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 13, wherein the executing step includes:

detecting the content operation identifier based on parsing the HTTP response; and

accessing the identified second content object for execution of the operation.

15. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 14, wherein the detecting step includes parsing a markup language document within the HTTP response and containing the first content object and the content operation identifier, the content operation identifier including a directive tag specifying the corresponding operation and an object identifier specifying a location of the second content object.

16. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 15, wherein the parsing step includes detecting the directive tag as an Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) tag inline prepended to an HTML document specifying the first content object.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 16, wherein the executing step further includes purging a third content object from a cache in response to a second directive tag specified in the markup language document.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 14, wherein the parsing step includes parsing the content operation identifier from an HTTP header within the HTTP response, the content operation identifier including said directive and an object identifier specifying a location of the second content object.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 18, wherein the executing step further includes purging a third content object from a cache in response to a second directive tag specified in the HTTP response.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A server configured for providing content to a device according to Hypertext Transport Protocol (HTTP), the server comprising:

an interface configured for receiving an HTTP request for a first content object and outputting an HTTP response; and

an executable process configured for identifying a content operation identifier that identifies a corresponding second content object determined as relevant to the first content object by a predictive caching operation, the content operation identifier including a directive for prefetching the second content object as a content operation distinct from presentation of the first content object by the device, the executable process configured for supplying within the HTTP response the first content object and the content operation identifier, enabling the device to perform the prefetching

of the second content object based on receipt of the content operation identifier within the HTTP response and distinct from the presentation of the first content object.

21. (ORIGINAL) The server of claim 20, wherein the executable process is configured for retrieving, based on retrieval of a first stored file containing the first content object, a second stored file associated with the first stored file and containing the content operation identifier.

22. (ORIGINAL) The server of claim 21, wherein the executable process is configured for adding to the first content object a content operation tag that specifies the content operation identifier including a directive tag specifying the corresponding content operation to be performed by the device and an object identifier that specifies a location of the second content object.

23. (ORIGINAL) The server of claim 22, wherein the first content object is a Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) document, the executable process configured for inline prepending the content operation tag from the second stored file into the HTML document.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The server of claim 23, wherein the content operation identifier further includes a second directive tag specifying purging a third content object from a cache.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The server of claim 21, wherein the executable process is configured for inserting into the HTTP response at least one extensible HTTP header that specifies the content operation identifier including said directive to be performed by the device and an object identifier that specifies a location of the second content object.

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The server of claim 25, wherein the content operation identifier further includes a second directive that specifies purging a third content object.

27. (ORIGINAL) The server of claim 20, wherein the executable process is configured for adding to the first content object a content operation tag that specifies the content operation identifier including a directive tag specifying the corresponding content operation to be performed by the device and an object identifier that specifies a location of the second content object.

28. (ORIGINAL) The server of claim 27, wherein the first content object is a Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) document, the executable process configured for inline prepending the content operation tag into the HTML document.

29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The server of claim 28, wherein the content operation identifier further includes a second directive tag specifying purging a third content object from a cache.

30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The server of claim 20, wherein the executable process is configured for inserting into the HTTP response at least one extensible HTTP header that specifies the content operation identifier including said directive to be performed by the device and an object identifier that specifies a location of the second content object.

31. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The server of claim 30, wherein the content operation identifier further includes a second directive specifying purging a third content object from a cache.

32. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A proxy device configured for retrieving content for a device according to Hypertext Transport Protocol, the proxy device comprising:

an HTTP interface configured for sending an HTTP request for a first content object, received from the device, to a destination server specified by the HTTP request, and receiving from the destination server an HTTP response to the HTTP request that includes the first content object and a content operation identifier that specifies a directive for prefetching an identified second content

object as an operation to be performed on an identified second content object and distinct from presentation of the first content object; and

an executable resource configured for sending via the HTTP interface the first content object to the device, and executing the operation of prefetching the second content object in response to the content operation identifier.

33. (ORIGINAL) The proxy device of claim 32, wherein the executable resource is configured for parsing the HTTP response to detect the content operation identifier, the executable resource accessing the identified second content object for execution of the operation.

34. (ORIGINAL) The proxy device of claim 33, wherein the executable resource is configured for parsing a markup language document within the HTTP response and containing the first content object and the content operation identifier, the content operation identifier including a directive tag specifying the corresponding operation and an object identifier specifying a location of the second content object.

35. (ORIGINAL) The proxy device of claim 34, wherein the executable resource is configured for detecting the directive tag as an Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) tag inline prepended to an HTML document specifying the first content object.

36. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The proxy device of claim 35, wherein the executable resource is further configured for [[any]] purging a third content object from a cache in response to a second directive tag specified in the markup language document.

37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The proxy device of claim 33, wherein the executable resource is configured for parsing the content operation identifier from an HTTP header within the HTTP response, the content operation identifier including said directive and an object identifier specifying a location of the second content object.

38. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The proxy device of claim 37, wherein the executable resource is configured for purging a third content object from a cache in response to a second directive tag specified in the HTTP response.